

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
**Department of Health Services**

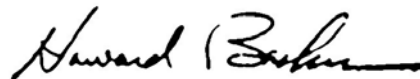


**ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER**  
Governor

September 16, 2005

TO: Private Sector Vaccines for Children (VFC) Providers

FROM: Howard Backer, M.D., M.P.H., Chief  
Immunization Branch



SUBJECT: Vaccines For Children (VFC) Program Update:  
Influenza Vaccine Availability for VFC Children; and  
VFC Vaccine Order Form, DHS 8501 (8/05).

The California VFC Program is now accepting Influenza Vaccine orders for the 2005-06 influenza season.

**FEDERAL VACCINE RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS**

The federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (**ACIP**) has published its annual influenza recommendations (**MMWR**, July 29, 2005 /54(RR08); 1-40) at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5408a1.htm> . The VFC influenza recommendations and Resolutions for this current flu season are enclosed. They can also be found online at: [http://www.cdc.gov/nip/vfc/acip\\_resolutions/1004-2flu.txt](http://www.cdc.gov/nip/vfc/acip_resolutions/1004-2flu.txt).

**Other Helpful Resources**

The American Academy of Pediatrics has compiled useful guidance in "Preparing Your Practice for the 2005-2006 Influenza Season", available at <http://www.cispimmunize.org/pro/influenzaquidance.html>.

The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases also has practice materials for flu season at <http://www.nfid.org/docs/kids.html>

**AVAILABLE INFLUENZA VACCINES**

Both injectable inactivated influenza vaccine and intranasal live attenuated influenza vaccine are available for VFC-eligible children for the 2005-06 influenza season. Note the different licensed age ranges for each vaccine.

- a.) **Influenza Virus Vaccine, No Preservative**, Fluzone® (sanofi-pasteur, formerly Aventis)  
No Preservative
- Licensed only for use in infants 6 through 35 months of age
  - Available ONLY in packages of 10X1 dose Tip-Lok® Syringes (No Needle)
  - Pre-filled dose of 0.25 ml

- b.) **Influenza Vaccine**, Fluzone® (sanofi pasteur) multi-dose vials contain thimerosal
- Licensed for use in children 6 months through 18 years of age
  - Packaged in 10-dose vials
  - Dosing: 6-35 months, 0.25 ml; ≥ 36 months, 0.5 ml
- c.) **Live, Attenuated Influenza Vaccine (LAIV)**, FluMist™ (MedImmune) intranasal vaccine
- Licensed for use in healthy children 5 years through 18 years of age
  - Packaged in 10 pack X 1 dose (individual) nasal sprayers
  - Vaccine must be stored at -15° C or colder.

### **CHILDREN ELIGIBLE FOR VFC INFLUENZA VACCINES**

You can now receive influenza vaccine from the VFC Program for all VFC-eligible children in the ACIP recommended groups:

#### **Eligible Groups for Inactivated Influenza Vaccine**

- Children aged 6 months through 23 months.
- Children and adolescents aged 2 through 18 years with chronic disorders of the pulmonary or cardiovascular systems, including asthma.
- Children and adolescents aged 2 through 18 years who have required regular medical follow-up or hospitalization during the preceding year because of chronic metabolic diseases (including diabetes mellitus), renal dysfunction, hemoglobinopathies, or immunosuppression (including immunosuppression caused by medications or by human immunodeficiency virus [HIV]).
- Children and adolescents aged 2 through 18 years who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy and may therefore be at risk for developing Reye syndrome after influenza.
- Children and adolescents aged 2 through 18 years who are residents of nursing homes and other chronic-care facilities that house persons at any age who have chronic medical conditions.
- Adolescent females aged <19 years who will be pregnant during influenza season.
- Children and adolescents aged 2 through 18 years who are household contacts or out-of-home caregivers of persons in the following high-risk groups:
  - children less than 2 years old;
  - adults aged 50 years or older;
  - persons with chronic disorders of the pulmonary or cardiovascular systems, including asthma;
  - persons who have required regular medical follow-up or hospitalization during the preceding year for chronic metabolic diseases (including diabetes mellitus), renal dysfunction, hemoglobinopathies, or immunosuppression (including immunosuppression caused by medications or by human immunodeficiency virus [HIV]);
- For 2005-2006, ACIP recommends that persons with any condition (e.g., cognitive dysfunction, spinal cord injuries, seizure disorders, or other neuromuscular disorders) that can compromise respiratory function or the handling of respiratory secretions or that can increase the risk for aspiration be vaccinated against influenza.

### **Eligible Groups for Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine (LAIV)**

Healthy children and adolescents aged 5 years through 18 years who are household contacts or out-of-home caregivers of persons in the following high-risk groups provided that the contacts are not severely immunocompromised (e.g., patients with hematopoietic stem cell transplants) and requiring care in a protective environment:

- children less than 2 years old;
- adults aged 50 years or older;
- persons with chronic disorders of the pulmonary or cardiovascular systems, including asthma;
- persons who have required regular medical follow-up or hospitalization during the preceding year for chronic metabolic diseases (including diabetes mellitus), renal dysfunction, hemoglobinopathies, or immunosuppression (including immunosuppression caused by medications or by human immunodeficiency virus [HIV]);
- children and adolescents aged 2 through 18 years who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy and may therefore be at risk for developing Reye syndrome after influenza;
- residents of nursing homes and other chronic-care facilities that house persons at any age who have chronic medical conditions;
- women who will be pregnant during influenza season.

### **CHILDREN DISPLACED BY HURRICANE KATRINA**

All children younger than 19 years of age who have been displaced by Hurricane Katrina are eligible to receive VFC vaccine. All displaced children residing in crowded group settings, typically defined as containing more than 100 people for over 7 days, are recommended to receive influenza vaccine. Evacuees who are not residing in crowded group settings should receive influenza vaccine if they belong to one or more of the ACIP risk groups described above.

### **NEW EXCISE TAX POLICY – RETURN UNUSED VIALS OF INFLUENZA VACCINE**

Influenza vaccines were recently added to the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, which is funded through a vaccine excise tax. Therefore, as of July 1, 2005, all VFC Providers must now return all expired or spoiled influenza vaccine (including vials, syringes, and nasal sprayer packages) to **General Injectables & Vaccines, Inc. (GIV)**.

### **FROZEN STORAGE OF LAIV**

**Live, Attenuated Influenza Vaccine (LAIV)** must be maintained in a continuously frozen state at 5°F (-15°C) or colder. No freeze/thaw cycles are permitted with this vaccine. It may be stored in either a manual defrost freezer or in a frost-free freezer compartment. More detailed information concerning storing and administering this vaccine can be found in the Recommendations for the Handling and Storage of Selected Biologicals (CDC, 2005), available at: [http://www.cdc.gov/nip/publications/vac\\_mgt\\_book.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nip/publications/vac_mgt_book.pdf).

### **TWO DOSES FOR PREVIOUSLY UNVACCINATED YOUNG CHILDREN**

**Remember:** Children under 9 years of age, receiving inactivated influenza vaccine for the first time, require two doses, one month apart. Children aged 5 – 8 years previously unvaccinated with LAIV should receive 2 doses of LAIV separated by 6 – 10 weeks. **Children under 9 years who have received 1 or more doses of any influenza vaccine in the past are recommended to receive only 1 dose this season.**

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## **VIS STATEMENTS**

Copies of the current interim Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) for the Inactivated Influenza Vaccines and the Live, Attenuated Influenza Vaccine (LAIV), dated 7/18/05, are included in this mailing and are also at <http://www.cdc.gov/nip/publications/VIS/default.htm>. Federal regulation requires that you provide the VIS to a parent or guardian before the child receives the influenza vaccine.

## **ORDERING INSTRUCTIONS**

Use the enclosed copy of the newly revised **VFC Vaccine Order Form, DHS 8501 (8/05)** to order any of the influenza vaccines available for the 2005-06 influenza season. Maintain at least one blank copy as your photocopy master for future VFC vaccine orders. You may fax your completed order for influenza vaccine to 1-877-329-9832 (877-FAXX-VFC).

- a. Complete the usage and inventory sections of the vaccine order form for the other VFC supplied vaccines you have in your refrigerator.
- b. You have the option of ordering other VFC vaccines in addition to influenza vaccine if it has been more than one month since you received your last shipment of VFC vaccine.
- c. Use the appropriate row in the **SPECIAL ORDER VFC VACCINES section** to order one or more of the three different influenza vaccines available.
- d. Using your practice profile estimates and your estimate of the proportion of children you will vaccinate, **order sufficient influenza vaccine to vaccinate high-risk VFC-eligible children and healthy infants 6 to 23 months of age in your practice.** Also include estimates for the number of children who would receive LAIV, if appropriate.
- e. **You may reorder in October 2005 and as needed throughout the 2005-06 Flu season.** The VFC Program will continue to ship vaccines as long as our inventory and national supplies last, or our funding allows.

We expect to receive initial supplies of flu vaccine from the manufacturers by September 30, 2005, with the remainder of the order delivered by November 30<sup>th</sup>. The VFC Program will begin delivery to you as soon as we receive the vaccines. All flu vaccine orders received so far are being placed in a "Back Order" listing in the order received. If necessary, due to demand or limitations on amounts supplied, the VFC Program may have to adjust the number of doses that are sent.

## **BILLING NOTES**

**Medi-Cal:** To bill Medi-Cal for vaccines and administration of influenza vaccines, use only CPT-4 codes 90657, 90658, 90659, and 90660 (LAIV). In addition, the **-SK (high risk) modifier** must be used for all influenza vaccines, including LAIV; document your patients high priority category in the patient's medical record (not on the claim form). If VFC vaccine is used, the provider will only be reimbursed for the administration fee. Medi-Cal Program providers who are unable to obtain influenza vaccine from the VFC Program for their Medi-Cal beneficiaries should purchase it privately and bill Medi-Cal using the appropriate CPT-4 codes.

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**CHDP:** The CHDP program will reimburse for influenza vaccine:

- If influenza vaccine is provided by the VFC Program use code "53".
- If influenza vaccine is purchased because the vaccine is not available through VFC use code "54".
- The provider must indicate "high risk factor" in the "Comments/Problems" box for code numbers 53 and 54 when used for influenza vaccine administered.
- If Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine (LAIV), intranasally administered is provided by the VFC Program use code "71".
- Code 71 is payable for ages five years through eighteen years, eleven months, administration fee only.
- The provider must indicate "For Household Members of Persons with High Risk Factor" in the "Comments/Problems" box for code number 71 when used for influenza vaccine administered.

To help remind parents about pediatric flu shots, enclosed are two copies of the "***Guess Who Needs a Flu Shot***" (IMM-782) self-adhering cling-on flyer. This piece is suitable for posting in a medical office waiting room or patient exam room and requires no tape or thumb tacks. In addition, a sample "***Guess Who Needs a Flu Shot***" (IMM-781) reminder postcard is enclosed. A four-to-a-page version of this postcard (IMM-748) is also available for practices using an automated reminder system via an immunization registry. To order additional copies of these materials, VFC providers should contact their local health department. Listings are at <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/izgroup/pdf/lhdlist.pdf> County Immunization Coordinators should follow standard ordering procedures.

## **QUESTIONS?**

If you have any questions, please call your VFC Field Representative or the VFC Program at: 877-243-8832 (877-2GET-VFC).

Enclosures - ACIP VFC Resolution No. 10/04-2  
Inactivated Influenza Vaccine Information Statement (interim 7/18/05)  
Live Intranasal Influenza Vaccine Information Statement (interim 7/18/05)  
VFC Vaccine Order Form, DHS 8501 (8/05)  
"Guess Who Needs a Flu Shot" postcard (IMM-781)  
"Guess Who Needs a Flu Shot" cling-on flyers (IMM-782)

cc: DHS Immunization Branch Field Representatives  
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